



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

Weekly Executive Director's Report, September 5-11, 2009

FROM: Mehdi Morshed
TO: Authority Board Members

TOPIC / UPDATE	LINE SECTION	AUTHORITY STAFF	RELEVANT DATE	NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED
TOP ISSUES				
ARRA Application Program management team and Authority staff continue to work to assemble the Authority's recommendation for the Recovery Act Track 2 high-speed and inter-city rail application, which, using direction provided by the Board at the Sept. 3 meeting, will be presented to the Board at a specially called Sept. 23 meeting.	All	Mehdi Morshed, Tony Daniels	9/23/2009	Board review and determination at Sept. 23 meeting. The application will then be forwarded to the Governor's Office for review before Oct. 2 submission to the federal government.
Atherton Lawsuit Judge Kenny set a briefing and hearing schedule on Petitioners' request that the court issue an order compelling the Authority to stop environmental and engineering work on the project north of Merced. Petitioners' documents on this issue are due to be filed Sept. 24th; the Authority's responsive papers are due to be filed Oct. 5th; and the court will hear argument on the matter on Friday, October 9th in Sacramento. The court may issue a tentative ruling on this matter on October 8th.	All	Christine Sproul	10/9/2009	Legal team is preparing for court filings and hearing date.
POLICY DEVELOPMENTS				
Nothing to report this period.				

ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Altamont Corridor Rail Project

The Federal Rail Administration has agreed to be the federal lead agency for the Altamont Corridor Rail Project; the FRA already serves as federal lead partner for the entire high-speed rail proposed project.

San Jose -
Stockton

Dan Leavitt, John
Harrison

9/10/2009

Draft NOI and NOP being reviewed by the Authority

Maintenance Facility Guidelines Released

Preliminary guidelines and criteria applicable to the design and general location of high-speed train maintenance facilities are presented in Technical Memorandums 5.1 and 5.3. These were both uploaded to the Authority's Web site on September 3, 2009.

All

Dan Leavitt, Ken
Jong

9/3/2009

Work will begin soon on the alternative analysis for the maintenance facilities for the various sections of the proposed high-speed train system.

NOI/NOP Released

The Federal Railroad Administration is expected to submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) for circulation the week of 9/13 and the dates of scoping meetings in the LA-San Diego section have been finalized. The Authority will deliver the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the State Clearinghouse on 9/16/2009

Los Angeles -
San Diego via
the Inland
Empire

Dan Leavitt, Jose
Martinez

9/16/2009

Scoping meetings:

10/13/2009-La Jolla;
10/14/2009-San Diego;
10/15/2009-Escondido;
10/19/2009-Murrieta;
10/20/2009-Corona;
10/21/2009-Monterey Park;
10/22/2009-Riverside
10/26/2009-West Covina;
10/28/2009-El Monte;
10/29/2009-Pomona;
11/2/2009-Ontario;
11/3/2009-San Bernardino

Regulatory Agency Meetings:

10/15/2009-Carlsbad (USF&W);
10/22/2009-Riverside
(CARWQCB)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Recess

Legislators are on recess beginning 9/11 though will likely be called back into special session in October in order to take up a single issue such as water.

none

Steve Schnaidt

9/11/2009

Legislators in D.C.

Both the Senate and Assembly are planning legislative visits to Washington, D.C. beginning approximately September 13th to meet with Congress and Administration officials on policy issues important to California, including the state's pending ARRA grant fund application for high-speed rail projects.

all

Steve Schnaidt

9/13/2009

OUTREACH EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS

Diridon Station

Regional project management staff participated in a "Diridon Station Area Plan Visioning Workshop" held in San Jose to gather the community's ideas and concerns.

San Jose - San Francisco

Jeff Barker

9/12/2009

Palmdale - Mayor, Citizens

Regional management team met with Palmdale Mayor Ledord and constituents from along two of the proposed rail system's segments.

Los Angeles - Palmdale, Palmdale - Bakersfield

Jeff Barker

9/9/2009

UC Planning Group

The University of California Planning Group requested a technical person attend a meeting of the group held near to UCSD. This was the first time regional management team has met with the UC group.

Los Angeles - San Diego

Jeff Barker

9/8/2009

Citizens to Protect Redwood City

Don Cecil of the Peninsula outreach team met with the attending public at this general information presentation.

San Jose - San Francisco

Jeff Barker

9/9/2009

Alternatives Analysis Meetings

Regional management team met with the cities of Menlo Park and San Mateo to discuss the alternatives analysis process.	San Jose - San Francisco	Jeff Barker	9/10/2009
--	--------------------------	-------------	-----------

MEDIA

Central Valley Heavy Maintenance Facility

Following the Authority's release of technical memoranda describing a planned train heavy maintenance facility, and a push from the Central Valley outreach/communication team, business reporters from Merced to Bakersfield wrote about the possibility of a job-generating facility being located somewhere along the Central Valley section of the proposed rail line.

Merced -
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen, Jeff
Barker

9/3/2009

Issue a Request For Expressions of Interest (RFIE) in the Fall from property owners interested in citing such a facility.

PUBLIC EVENTS

USA Rail Conference

USA Rail 2009 was held Sept. 9-11 in Chicago. Among the speakers attending was Joseph Szabo, the Federal Railroad Administrator, whose comments were reporting as lowering expectations for high-speed rail; for example:

- Szabo: "Change will happen incrementally. High-speed rail is not a sprint. It's a marathon you need to adapt your business models to."
- Szabo: "We need to get real on some of the high-speed rail proposals."

Palo Alto "Teach-In"

The "Peninsula Cities Consortium," led by the mayor of Palo Alto, held an hours-long event on Sept. 12 to discuss and learn about high-speed rail. The discussion was productive and resulted in the exchange of information about the proposed high-speed rail section and the Authority's partnership with Caltrain, etc.

San Jose - San
Francisco

Board member
Quentin Kopp made
a presentation

9/11/2009

<http://www.terrapinn.com/2009/usarail/>

Continued outreach to the Peninsula Cities Consortium.

Robert Doty and
Dominic Spaethling
participated

9/12/2009

OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

Letter to Congressional Delegation

None

Executive Director Morshed sent a letter to members of the California Congressional delegation summarizing the recent ruling in the Atherton lawsuit. The letter stated in part "Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny rejected the majority of Petitioners' claims and affirmed the work of the Authority on several key issues, including estimated project costs, operating characteristics, ridership models, and noise and visual impacts."

all

Mehdi Morshed

9/10/2009

LOOKING AHEAD...

Mobility 21

A coalition of Southern California transportation, business, and local government entities will hold a summit in Los Angeles on 9/21/09.

Carrie Pourvahidi
will present

9/21/09

<http://www.mobility21coalition.com/>

Scoping Meetings to Begin

Following the Federal Railroad Administration submitting the Notice of Intent (NOI) for circulation (8/21), and the Authority delivering the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to the State Clearinghouse (8/24), public scoping meetings are beginning for this section.

Palmdale -
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen, Tom
Tracy

9/15-17/2009

Scoping meetings:

9/15/2009-Bakersfield;
9/16/2009-Tehachapi;
9/17/2009-Palmdale

Federal Stimulus (ARRA)

The Board is scheduled to discuss the federal stimulus application for Track 2 high-speed and inter-city rail funding at a special Board meeting Sept. 23 for an application due to be submitted to the FRA by Oct. 2.

All

Mehdi Morshed,
Tony Daniels

9/23/2009,
10/2/2009